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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 4, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 4, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

OZGUR GUNDEM: The first hearing for the charges concerning Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz's killing will be held on February 12. The statement of charges against the four (Turkish National Police) special operations team members reads, "special operations team members transgressed the rules of necessary self-defence and caused the two killings whose actual perpetrator cannot be traced or discovered." DEHAP and Free Party members protested the statement in Malatya and demanded that the perpetrators be arrested. The court rejected the appeal of Kaymaz Family for the accused special operations team members to remain under arrest while on trial.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Four people, including the DEHAP District Chairperson, Cafer Simsek, are (allegedly) taken into custody by the Mersin Security Directorate as a result of raids that (TNP) Anti-Terror Branch carried out at houses and shops in Mersin.

EVRENSEL: Sinan Yerlikaya, a CHP (Republican People's Party) MP from Tunceli, claimed that Unal Erkan, Governor of the State of Emergency Region in 1994, (allegedly) discouraged the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Parliament which wanted to investigate the disappearance of 13 villagers (allegedly) in security forces custody during the September 17, 1994 operations carried out in Tunceli's Mirik, on the grounds that the operations are continuing and the region is not safe. According to Yerlikaya, although delegations from Germany, the democratic mass organizations and he himself visited the scene then, the Human Rights Commission did not pay a visit to Mirik district.

EVRENSEL: Political parties and mass organizations in Tunceli demanded that a commission be set up to investigate people who disappeared in Mirik, Tunceli. Huseyin Tunc, the Provincial Chairperson of EMEP (The Labour Party), said that many mysterious killings were committed and many people were exposed to physical and psychological tortures during 1990s. Huseyin Tunc says, "This situation has not changed much today. Very recently, a member of the army threatened and insulted the headmen of (several) villages and accused villagers of being accomplices to the illegal activities committed in the region." Tunc demanded that people not be oppressed and frightened, and that these oppressive attitudes be abandoned.

CUMHURIYET: Because Syria does not open its borders to trucks carrying goods to Americans in Iraq and since the tanker drivers carrying fuel oil had been on a strike due to low transportation prices for twenty days, twenty thousand trucks are waiting in 70 kilometer-long queues at Habur border gate. Despite the fact that the strike has ended recently, the congestion created by the number of trucks has not been diminished yet.

ZAMAN: Rauf Denktas, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is going to pay a visit to Adana tomorrow at 4.30 p.m. Rauf Denktas will be visiting the Governor of Adana, the Army Corps Commander and the mayor of Adana. The next day, Denktas will be visiting the Governor of Osmaniye at the Osmaniye province.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. [MILLIYET](#) / [EKSPRES](#) / [BOLGE](#) / [TURKIYE](#): Umit Ozgumus, President of the Adana Chamber of Industry, is going to meet President Erdogan for the second time on January 5, and will mainly discuss the new Incentive Law. Umit Ozgumus, who is selected as the representative of the East Mediterranean region that is comprised of Adana, Mersin, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye provinces, will speak with the PM about the problems of the region on behalf of the provinces at the "TOBB (Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges) Regional and Sector-Based Consultation" meeting.

2. [BOLGE](#) / [TURKIYE](#): Aytac Durak, the Mayor of Adana, criticized the way the government handles the distribution of the incentives. Durak said that it is a mistake to allocate the incentives by simply assessing dollar based per capita income of the provinces since there are multiple factors that determine the per capita income. It should be noted that the income is distributed unevenly within Adana province because of the fact

that a significant amount of the population constantly arrives in the city due to terror-related and/or economic difficulties.

13. EKSPRES / BOLGE / EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM / MILLIYET: A group of angry Mersin farmers stopped the engines of their trucks and chained the trucks' steering wheels to protest GoT agricultural policies of the government in Mersin. Due to the ineffective policies of the government, the farmers say that they are not able to sell their products and are deeply discouraged about further producing vegetables and fruits.

14. ZAMAN: The amount of citrus fruit harvested in Adana has increased by a hundred percent as compared to the previous year; however, the incentives for exporting the citrus fruit are very low. Because of the current laws on the fruit-and-vegetable market, the prices in domestic markets are not falling as well. Producers are desperately seeking ways to sell their produce.

15. BOLGE: It is estimated that the total area of the fields devoted to cotton planting will decrease next season because of the frustration that cotton farmers are experiencing with the low level of the incentive premiums and the low prices in the world markets.

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